

### 3 - Treating Patients and Training the Local Medical staff in cooperation with Italian organizations

Heevie in cooperation with the Italian NGOs, (IME, Solidarity Initiative, Med Child, Tuscany Emergency Hospital volunteers, Associazione Culturale Italia Kurdistan (A.C.I.K) – Italy Tuscany Region - Siena Municipality) and with support of Kurdistan Regional Government, Ministry of Health gave continuation to the projects of 2006 to treat the patients and train the local medical staff.

The very positive outcomes and results achieved by the Pilot Project implemented in 2006 - 2007 in the Northern Region the deputy Minister of Health of Iraq and the Minister of Health of the Kurdistan Regional Government signed a Letter of Intent with Med Child and Heevie to establish a long-term Health Cooperation Program.

- In 2007 Heevie sent **137** patients in three special flights to Italy in cooperation with Italian Organizations.
- **19** patients have been operated in Kurdistan by the Italian team.
- **2510** patients have been examined in Kurdistan by Italian Medical Teams and Local trainee Doctors
- **17** trainees local medical Doctors sent to Italy in cooperation with Italian Organizations.
- **11** Local medical staff and Doctors trained on the job in Kurdistan by Italian Medical Teams.
- **21** Professional medical Italian works in Kurdistan several times.

## Activities:

### 1- Official Meeting:

SIA and Med Child with Heevie meet the deputy Minister of Health of Iraq and the Minister of Health of the Kurdistan Regional Government and signed a Letter of Intent with Med Child and Heevie to establish a long-term Health Cooperation Program.



**Erbil, 3 December 2007 Dr. Ilja Gardi , Deputy Health Minister of Iraq ,and the Minister of Health of Kurdistan region**

## 2- Workshop in Erbil 3.12.2007

The workshop included Heevie, SIA, MED CHILD NGOs and many local doctors to discuss the next context of the Pilot Project for Kurdistan Region and the urgent actions to cure patients and training of Kurdish personnel in the following fields:

- Congenital Heart Diseases
- Oncological Diseases
- Genetic Blood Disorders (Thalassemia and onco – Haematological).



**Workshop in Ministry of Health in Erbil on 3rd. December 2007 Dr. Ilja Gardi – MedChild Health Project Leader**

### 3- Italian NGOs Visits Kurdistan, 2007

In this year many Italian NGOs and Medical Teams visited Kurdistan, the Italian Medical Team that visited Kurdistan in 2007 to examine the patients and chooses the urgent cases consisted of the following Specialization:

The Italian Teams -2007

No.	Name	Profession and Institution	Gender	Nationality
1	Ilja Gardi	Medchild Health Director - Medchild	M	Italy
2	Enrico Musso	Project Manager MC - Medchild	M	Italy
3	Iole Pinto	President - Solidarity Initiatives	F	Italy
4	Rita Lourenco	Coord .Prog. International IME	F	Italy
5	Jiyan Ali Aziz	Physician – Emergency ASL7 -Local Health Centre of Siena	F	Italy
6	Zena Badawe	San Donato-Hospital	F	Italy
7	Alberto Saracco	Medical Doctor (Medchild)	M	Italy
8	Sardar Ali Aziz	Secretary of the Kurdish-Italian Cultural Association	M	Italy
9	Paola Sinibaldi	MIH Executive Office	F	Italy
10	Marco Di Terlizzi	Vice – Presid. Ass. For Heart Patient Children in World	M	Italy
11	Carmelo Arcidiacono	Cardiologist - San Donato Hospital	M	Italy
12	Mario Carminati	Cardiologist - San Donato Hospital	M	Italy
13	Alessandro Frigiola	Heart surgeon-San Donato Hospital	M	Italy
14	Anna Maria Testi	Hematologist -Luecemia - Policlinico Umberto I Rome	F	Italy
15	Mara Pilati	Cardiology	F	Italy
16	Giovanni Di Maggio	Pediatric Surgeon: Teaching Hospital of Siena	M	Italy
17	Mario Messina	Pediatric Surgeon:Head of Pediatric Surgery Dpt.Teaching Hospital of Siena	M	Italy
18	Marco Andreani	Biologist Transplantation Lab. - IME Policlinico Torvergata Rome	M	Italy
19	Paola Polchi	Hematologist	F	Italy
20	Dorina Ionita	Nurse (San Donato)Hospital	F	Italy
21	Chiara segantini	Nurse	F	Italy

#### 4- Treating the Patients in Italy, 2007

The total of patients sent to Italy in cooperation with Italian Organizations in 2007: (137) patients.

No.	Diseases	Total Patients
1	Neurological Diseases	2
2	Haematological Diseases	16
3	Thalassemia Diseases	13
4	Oncological Diseases	3
5	Paediatric Surgical Diseases	1
6	Congenital Heart Diseases	102
	Total	137



Minister of Health Dr.Abdulrahman Younis , IME President Prof. Ilja Gardi, SIA President Iole Pinto, KRG Reprehensive Mr.Pharda Turan, in Erbil Airport



**Erbil International Airport: 2007 Departure of the special flight to cure children afflicted with Congenital Heart Diseases**

## 5- Treating the Patients in Kurdistan by Italian Teams, 2007

The total of patients operated in Kurdistan by Italian Medical Teams in 2007: (19) patients, shows in the table below:

No.	Diseases	Total Patients
1	Paediatric Surgical Diseases	19
	Total	19



**Selected Pictures of Paediatric Surgical Diseases patients operated in Kurdistan 2007**

## 6- Evaluation and examining patients by Italian Medical teams in Kurdistan, 2007

The total of patients Examined in Kurdistan by Italian Medical Teams and Local trainee Doctors in 2007: (2510) patients, shows in the table below:

Patients Examined by Italian team on 2007			
No	Diseases	City	Total
1	Congenital Heart Diseases	Duhok	777
		Kirkuk	250
		Erbil	668
		Sulaymania	549
	Total Each Diseases		2244
2	Onco Haematological Diseases - Leukemia	Duhok	28
		Kirkuk	11
		Erbil	49
		Sulaymania	56
	Total Each Diseases		144
3	Paediatric Surgical Diseases	Duhok	103
		Kirkuk	2
		Erbil	7
		Sulaymania	10
	Total Each Diseases		122
Total			2510

## 7- Training the Local Medical staff in cooperation with Italian organizations:

- 17 local medical Doctors trained in Italy in cooperation with Italian organizations.
- 11 Local medical staff and Doctors trained on the job in Kurdistan by Italian Medical Teams.

## 8 - Med Child Report to H.E Prime Minister of KRG:

Conclusion of the short terms phase of the Pilot Project in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region

**To: His Excellency Prime Minister of Kurdistan Autonomous Region of Iraq Mr. Nechirvan Idris Barzani**

**CC: Mr. Pherda Thoranè Senior Political Advisor of K.R.G. Coordinator for the Kurdistan Pilot Project**

**Your Excellency,**

With reference to the MoU signed on 05 April 2006, we are pleased to inform You that the short term phase of the Pilot Project in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region has going to be completed on December 2007, during our next delegation visit, when the last group of 31 children affected with congenital heart diseases will be transferred to the Italian reference hospital of the Med Child network.

Your personal support, and the collaborative efforts of Heevie local NGO, by sustaining travelling costs and expenses for patients families, gave a precious contribution to the implementation of the whole cooperation activity and the fulfillment of the short terms cooperation objectives foreseen by the Pilot Project.

It also encouraged us to continue to dedicate all our efforts to improve this joint cooperation in the benefit of the Kurdish children .

As to the activities carried out during 2006 – 2007 the following were entirely sustained by Mediterranean Institute of Health and Med child Foundations, through own funds and specific financing granting by the Italian Foreign affairs.

- All medical treatments and hospitalization of patients cured in Italy (tot.240 patients affected with congenital heart diseases, haematological diseases, thalassemia, oncological diseases)
- Accommodation of patients and families in full board regime and interpreters service ;
- Administrative permits for the stay in Italy ;
- Stages and training courses for 30 physicians in the field of haematology, paediatric cardiology and paediatric surgery at Italian hospitals: 1 month – 4 years duration (including accommodation and full board regime)
- Clinical evaluation in Kurdistan of more than 1800 children afflicted with congenital heart diseases and other paediatric diseases
- Activation of 4 paediatric echo cardiology ambulatories in the G governorate of Duhok, Erbil, Sulaymania and Kirkuk through the donation of 6 echocardiography equipment and 1 year training of 4 paediatricians in the field of diagnostic echocardiography.

From the assessment carried out in the first 2 years of the Project came out that the main cities of Kurdistan are without adequate health services able to correctly diagnose and adequately cure many diseases, especially paediatric ones which require highly specialized therapies at the best clinical standards. Consequently the population of Kurdistan cannot access needed specialist care and many children afflicted with pathologies “typical” of developing countries are condemned to death.

Therefore, we are investigating possible action plans, aimed to guarantee the continuation of the programs of cure of urgent cases and transferring of know how started on 2006-2007, and, in the meantime, to achieve the fast upgrading of local healthcare structures and to promote capacity building in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region .

**Yours faithfully,**

**The Project Manager**  
**Dr. Ilja Gardi CEO Foundation Med Child – Italy**  
**Prot. 164 IG/ag Rome, 28/11/07**

## 9- Med Child Report: Meeting with the President of the Parliament, Mr. Adnan Al Mufti in Rome 28.9.2007

Participants: Adnan Al Mufti - President of the Parliament of the Region of the Iraqi Kurdistan Bakhtiar Amin - President of the ' International Alliance for Justice (Iraq) Safya Al Souhail - Member of the Iraqi Parliament and vice president of the' International Alliance for Justice Iraq' Rozan Abdulkader Ahmad Dizayee – Member of the Parliament of the Independent Region of the Iraqi Kurdistan Adel Murad - Ambassador of Iraq in Rumania and member of the secretariat PUK - Iraq Ilja Gardi ( CEO MedChild) Bruno Musso (Pres.MedChild) Iole Pinto (Pres. Ass. Iniziative di Solidarietà) Nicol Figa Talamanca (No Peace without Justice – Iraq).

The meeting has been held in Rome the 28 September 2007 from 8.00 p.m to 12.00 p.m at the Radisson Hotel, where the President of the Parliament of the Independent Region of the Iraqi Kurdistan (KRG) together with a delegation of Iraqi parliamentarians was host in occasion of the Conference on "The role of the Second Chamber in federal democracies and decentralized centers", organized by the association "Non c'è Pace Senza Giustizia" and by the Iraqi organization "International Alliance for Justice ."The President of the Parliament of KRG has introduced the meeting and illustrated to the delegation of parliamentarians and present Iraqi political exponents the main results obtained during the first biennium of activity of MedChild - IME according to the Kurdistan Pilot Project and emphasized as such activity has been the sole in the scene of the international cooperation in the Region of the Kurdistan, considering whether the number of children affections by serious cardiac, cancer pathologies and haematological, which have had approached by highly specialized cures in Italy (beyond two hundred) or in terms of effectiveness in the transfer of knowledge, with the formation of cardiologist paediatricians and oncoematology.

Therefore the President of the Parliament of the KRG expressed deep gratefulness for the MEDCHILD acts wishing that it can consolidate and increase in near future, extending the activity also to other regions of the Iraq for being able to realize in Kurdistan one platform of efficient sanitary services for the entire Iraqi people.

Therefore the President of MEDCHILD Bruno Musso, has shown the purpose and the founding principles of the Foundation improved to create one net of cooperation for and between the Mediterranean people finalized to the protection of the rights of infancy, health and the instruction. Therefore he has illustrated as the methodical ones developed by the Pilot Project have particular valence, as methodological paradigm to extend also to other situations and regions in the area of the Mediterranean and Middle East.

Dr.Gardi therefore pointed out as by the inspections to the sanitary structures of the entire Kurdish area, and by the data found during course of the Project Pilot, made in agreement with the Minister of the Health, is emerged a picture of the unacceptable situation about the offer of the sanitary services present in the Region, both in terms of number of beds and in terms of quality of the same ones.

Dr.Gardi reaffirmed as currently in the region of the Iraqi Kurdistan the relation between the number of bed and people is inferior to the half regarding the average found in Middle East: in fact the medium distribution of the relationship beds and people in the Middle East is of approximately 2 beds every thousand inhabitants against to approximately 8 in Europe.

By the research in the field within of the Project Pilot it emerges that in the region of Kurdistan there are currently approximately 0.9 beds every thousand inhabitants (less than the Sub Saharian Africa) and the quality of the same ones is absolutely unacceptable on the technological and structural profile. Moreover appears of absolute priority to the ends of the reconstruction of the Region an increment of beds and the creation of currently nonexistent beds of high specialization, giving priority to the cure of paediatric pathologies to high prevalence as the congenital cardiopathies, the congenital and genetic anomalies, oncohematology pathologies, every type of trauma and great burns currently not treatable in place. Altogether it is possible to deduce that the Region needs the creation of 4000 new beds, in order to catch up the medium standards of the Middle Eastern area that is under equipped of beds both in numbers and in quality.

These are the basic aspects on which is necessary to activate opportune strategies of reconstruction and development in international seat; a real reconstruction that starts from the net of sanitary services and in particular from the health of childhood.

Mr.Bakhtiar Amin - President of the Iraqi ONG ' International Alliance for Justice (Iraq) - spoke to the assembly expressing deep appreciation in learning about the activity conducted by MEDCHILD. In particular he expressed deep interest for the data provided by dr.Gardi about the inadequacy of the sanitary structures in Kurdistan which are documented by detailed analysis conducted in the field. Mr.Bakhtiar Amin underlined how his experience as President of the Iraqi ONG ' International Alliance for Justice' end as former Minister of Human Rights in his country, have given to him the opportunity to understand the enormous gravity and the devastating impact in the society of the diffused presence of serious not curable paediatric pathologies in native place within communities. From such point of view, the possibility of access to the cures for children represents an absolute priority. The attainment of the human rights must be considered with the instruction a fundamental element of reconstruction of the social structure of the Country.

Moreover Mr. Bakhtiar Amin told that it is important that the Project Pilot lead by MEDCHILD could continue with the transfer of care in the Independent Region of the Kurdistan giving maximum priority to the consolidation in native place of the creation of competences and specific knowledge ("capacity building") in all the fields of the health; therefore activating appropriate financial and managerial instruments and institutional lobbies that concur the realization of structures and infrastructures suitable and with the aim of the project.

Therefore he has declared to be willing and fully available to support projects lead by Med Child with his institutional powers, in order to realize the creation of efficient sanitary services for all the Iraq. Mr. Bakhtiar Amin has expressed also particular appreciation for the activity lead in the field of congenital pathologies wide diffused between the Kurd People. He assumed that these can be also imputable in long-term to genocide effects on the population of the Kurd area as a consequence of the chemical bombing lead in that area in years 70-80 by the previous regimen.

Concerning last concept illustrated by Mr. Bakhtiar Amin, Dr. Gardi explained that the clinical evaluations of beyond 1400 children affections of congenital cardiopathies, carried out by specific clinicians protocols used during missions conducted by the Med Child team, it underlined an excess of pathologies in that area. This is relevant as epidemiologist data. Results of a preliminary survey carried out in the Kurd area have been submitted to the attention of international the scientific community; particularly the group of the Prof. Yacoub in London, one of the main specialists in paediatric cardiology, has offered his own availability to collaborate with Med Child's Project Pilot as far the congenital cardiopathies and in the search of possible genetic factors that they concur to the high incidence of cardiac pathologies in the Kurd region.

After that doc. Safya Al Souhail, Member Iraqi Parliament, has expressed deep admiration for the sanitary cooperation carried out by MEDCHILD and she declared her favors to the hypothesis that the plan could be consolidated in order to construct in the region of the Kurdistan and in short time a platform of efficient sanitary services for the entire Country. She declared also her availability to promote and to coordinate the activity from Baghdad in order to extend and to integrate the plans carried out in the Region of the Kurdistan to the rest of the Country.

The President Adnan Al Mufti at the end of the meeting has illustrated the outcomes of the jobs of the Conference about "The role of the Second Room in the democracies federal and decentralized centers " carried out in Rome during the previous days and ended with the adoption with an unanimous vote of a document that express the favors of the institution to a second Chamber in Iraq.

Main points of the adopted document, bottom line the necessity to constitute a Federal Council with responsibility and tasks clearly defined in order to guarantee the maximum representativeness to the various Iraqi regions and provinces and the recommendation to the use of an elective system of the members rather than a nominations system.

Moreover the participants recommend previewing a system of composition of the Senate not excessively unbalanced on the division of the seats for ethnic quotas in order to opt for a system which could guarantee an alternative of representativeness. It was recommended to take into consideration in particular the experience of the Iraqi Kurdistan and the system adopted for the government of the Region; also under such profiles, methods and hypothesis of development of the Project Pilot, they appear to be on the same wavelength with principles and methods of national and federal politics.

The President Adnan Al Mufti closed the meeting declaring his deep gratefulness to all the Italians in the Med Child's team engaged in the sanitary cooperation, for the deep humanity, the closeness sense and the solidarity perceived and appreciated by all the patients and children treated in Italy that he had the opportunity to verify personally during his visit to patients and families.

The President has also invited dr.Gardi and the Med Child's delegation to participate to one seated of the parliament of the Independent Region of the Kurdistan oriented on the illustration of results of the Plan Pilot and on its perspectives of development in the future; to the same sitting, to be fixed in the November month, they will participate as invited the representatives of the WHO, UNICEF, FAO and the UN in Iraq in addition to some exponents of the Iraqi Parliament.

Med Child-Rome, 28.9.2007

## 10- Med Child Report to H.E. Minister of Health: Activities 2006-2007 - IRAQ – KURDISTAN PILOT PROJECT

### OUTLINE OF ACTIVITIES 2006-2007

#### Background

The IRAQ – Kurdistan Pilot Project was undertaken by Med Child-IME-SIA with the agreement of the Task Force of the DGMM of the Italian Foreign Ministry (General Directorate for Mediterranean and Middle Eastern Countries) following the first mission of the Italian team headed by Dr Ilja Gardi conducted in December 2005 in the Autonomous Region of Iraqi Kurdistan and the support of Kurdistan Regional Government with the collaborative efforts of Heevie local NGO.

In this occasion the two Foundations were required to define a methodology for intervention, shared with Governmental Authorities, with all parties in charge of healthcare services in various districts and with local professionals .

The activity programs developed were aimed to provide an urgent response to the dramatic situation of deficiency in offer for treating paediatric diseases. Some of these illnesses were widespread in the area and couldn't be treated locally: it is worth to underline, among others, congenital heart diseases, thalassaemia, onco-haematological diseases and other congenital paediatric diseases and malformations, which can be normally treated with clinical, scientific and organizational know-how of the Italian network of centers of excellence specifically activated in the framework of the Pilot Project.

The general terms and the procedures for developing the Pilot Project were agreed to during the second mission of the Italian team (April 2006) with the Prime Minister Nejirvan Barzani, who signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Dr Ilja Gardi on the 6th April, 2006.

## Kurdistan Pilot Project: 2006-2007 activities

- Treatment of urgent cases of patients affected by main paediatric diseases: epidemiological evidences were found as a result of targeted investigations conducted in the districts of Duhok, Erbil, Sulaymania and other Iraqi regions for heart diseases, thalassaemia, onco-haematological diseases, and oncology.
- Development of specific training programs for medical, nursing and technical professionals, in the fields considered to be priorities for action.
- Haematology: thalassaemia and onco-haematological diseases (leukaemia, lymphomas, etc.)<sup>4</sup>
- Heart diseases and paediatric heart surgery:
- Paediatrics and paediatric surgery.
- Activation of four out-patient facilities for paediatric surgery in northern Iraqi area, where most of the Pilot Project activities are carried on<sup>4</sup>
- Definition and development of web-based infrastructures suitable for managing the project information flows.

### Actions undertaken and results achieved in 2006-2007

#### Clinical assessment activity and treatment of urgent cases

Between June 2006 and December 2007, six special flights were organized, and over 4300 sick children were clinically evaluated, while 281 children with severe heart, oncological and haematological diseases were sent to Italy to be cured .

From June 2006 to March 2007 a team of Italian professionals travelled to Iraq and during six clinical missions assessed a total number of 1347 patients aged between 1 month and 18 years old (mean age 5), with known/suspected CHD.

The clinical assessment activities have been carried out in cooperation with Iraqi doctors who attended the training on the job programs in Italian centers of reference for Cardiology linked in Med Child Network.

On March 2007 the first two Iraqi doctors accomplished their 1 year training program in paediatric cardiology. They returned back to Iraq and continued the clinical assessment activity in the governorate of Duhok, Erbil, Sulaymania and Kirkuk according to the criteria and to the procedures defined and shared with Professionals of Med Child Cardiology Network, and using the equipments provided by the Italian part according to the project plan .

Lastly, following activation of the new centre of paediatric surgery in the town of Duhok, paediatric activity was undertaken locally in November 2007 by a team of Italian paediatric surgeons.

During the 20 days mission held in November December 2007 almost 120 cases of paediatric malformations - urogenital and gastrointestinal apparatus – were clinically evaluated by the Italian team.

During the same mission 20 operations were carried out on patients affected by serious paediatric malformations of the urogenital and gastrointestinal tracts that could not be operated by the local specialists because of the lack of specific skills in the field of paediatric surgery .

#### a) Congenital Heart Disease

The total number of patients affected by congenital heart disease (CHD) evaluated in the framework of Med Child project (2006-2007) is 3364.

The main results of clinical assessments carried out can be summarized as follows:

• 85% of the cases evaluated were found affected by CHD needing treatment

• 30% of them were deemed urgent, i.e. Needing treatment within 6 months

• 15% were considered inoperable, due to the high risk related to the transfer to the Italian hospital by plane, and/or the complications related to the CHD - not cured in time – that compromises the clinical outcome of the surgery intervention .

From June 2006 to December 2007 six groups of 171 patients affected with CHD selected as urgent and with positive expected outcome, were transferred to Italy at the Med Child Cardiology Network Centers, with six special flights Erbil-Milan .

Three patients with complex CHD died shortly after surgery. Significant complications occurred in 2 cases. Two patients needed re-operation for residual disease. The average duration of the staying in Italy for the complete treatment has been 2 months.

## Med Child Health Care Centers Network

No.	Hospital Name	Town
1	Policlinico San Donato	Milan
2	San Raffaele Hospital	Milan
3	Ospedali Riuniti	Bergamo
4	Ospedale S. Orsola	Bologna
5	Ospedale Apuano Pasquinucci	Massa Carrara
6	Bambino Gesù Hospital	Rome
7	Mayer Hospital	Florence
8	Policlinico Umberto I	Rome
9	Policlinico Tor Vergata	Rome

### b) Haematological and other diseases

As to thalassemia and onco-haematological diseases two meetings were held in Erbil between Iraqi and Italian head physicians from IME –MedChild Network to define the selection criteria of patients and establish the grounds for a joint protocols for certain onco –haematological pathologies.

The HLA typing of thalassemic children started on March 2006. Blood samples of 176 families have been sent to the IME laboratories in Italy (Rome- Policlinico Tor Vergata) in order to find compatible donors for patients requiring bone marrow transplantation. During 2006-2007 176 HLA typing exams have been conducted; compatible donors were found for 79 patients.

From June 2006 to March 2007, in seven clinical missions, a team of Italian professionals travelled to Iraq and assessed in total 733 patients aged 0.2 to 20 yrs affected with Leukemia and other oncohematological diseases, thalassemia and other diseases.

In the same period 111 patients selected as urgent and with positive expected outcome, were transferred to Italy at the Med Child Haemathology and paediatric surgery Network Centers.

## Training activity, instruction and transfer of skills

### Outline of training activities – Iraq Pilot Project – Two-year periods 2006-2007

Typology	Total N°	Discipline
Iraqi professionals who have attended training courses in Italy (activity already completed or in progress)	19	Haemathology, Cardiology, Surgery; Heart surgery, Paediatrics
Iraqi professionals who have attended specialized training courses	20	Paediatric surgery, Oncology, Diagnostic and Laboratory Techniques, Health Service Management
Further professionals selected for training activities	12	Paediatric Surgery; Paediatric Heart Surgery, Diagnostics and Laboratory Techniques

After the training activity conducted during the course of 2006 and 2007, four paediatric cardiology diagnostic centers were opened in Northern Iraq where six portable Siemens Acuson echo cardiographic equipment were installed (equipments provided by Med child Foundation in the framework of the project). These centers are operating under the responsibility of the first two Iraqi doctors trained in paediatric cardiology diagnostics during the course of the Pilot Project .

They work in close cooperation with the Italian professionals of reference centers of Med Child network and specifically with the main centre for paediatric surgery activities, Policlinico San Donato - Milan.

A common data base was developed in the framework of the project. The data base is constantly up-dated by clinical professionals working in the reference centers of the project, and it can be interrogated on-line (web access database). It contains case histories and clinical data of over two thousand children with heart diseases living in Northern Iraq.

The creation and regular update of this database, which will be further developed and extended jointly with the Italian Telecommunication key-player TeleSpazio, is an important asset of the project in terms of method, co-ordination and management of clinical activity.

It is also an important tool for continuous training, being a useful instrument to further develop activities undertaken in the first two years of the Pilot Project, starting from paediatric cardiology to extend it to other diseases included in the framework of the project.

## 11- Tuscany Emergency Hospital volunteers organized a Football game on 8.6.2007 in Poggibonsi-Italy

The medical staff of Emergency Hospital in Poggibonsi organized a Football game to help the children patients in Kurdistan. The revenues of the arranged football match was collected for the purpose of helping patients, at least to contribute little bit in the high expenses that curing patients is requiring. Such type of steps and donation activities are highly appreciated and considerable. Volunteer activities by medical staff in one of the Italian hospitals to help Kurdistan Region children are humanitarian activity that shows the sympathy towards Kurdistan Region people.



## 12- Cleaning Campaign projects In Duhok city, 2007

In 2007 in cooperation with Duhok Municipality, Heevie a cleaning Campaign was hold to clean the center of Duhok city and some surrounding areas.

This initiative has been taken too aware the inhabitants of Duhok Governorate about the risks of pollution besides directing people to pay more attention to environment inside cities. Especially in this year many areas in Kurdistan Region suffered from Cholera Disease.

Heevie aimed to precede a step ahead as a prevention process before the disaster had taken place. This event was covered by local media, live interviews had been made with Heevie staff to clarify the aims and purposes .Heevie had paid Salaries (130 worker), besides providing masks, Gloves, Foods & Drinks, Hats for workers. The cost of the campaign was a donation from the Italian-Tuscany Emergency hospital volunteers sent by Dr. Jiyan Ali as an initiative to create more awareness.



### 13- Provide Medicine, 2007

Heevie donated some of the required medicines for local Hospitals by providing them from inside Kurdistan region or via asking for donation from Italy Medicines, Medical Materials and Suture for Operations for Azadi Hospital, 100 Kilo of medicines had been donated from Centro Misericordia Medicinali Arcivescovado Di Firenze for Duhok Hospitals. The cost of the transportation was a donated from the Italian-Tuscany Emergency hospital volunteers sent by Dr. Jiyan Ali.



### 14- Supporting Nursing Sector:

Nursing sector in Kurdistan Region was suffering from a huge shortage. It had become difficult to employ new ones and encourages others to be in the future. Patients and hospitals faced a lot due to such shortage. Heevie had observed this problem and tried its best to develop the nursing sector to fulfill hospital demands.

Heevie has offered extra wages to nurses in an attempt to keep them working at public hospitals. This had reported many success stories and pleased the health authorities in Duhok Governorate.

The salaries were donated by the Italian-Tuscany Emergency hospital volunteers sent by Dr. Jiyan Ali who acts as coordinator and mediator at the same time. She had paid huge efforts in arranging donations to help Kurdistan Region health infrastructure.